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It started, in a way, back in 1939. At the time, no one knew it was the beginnings of the Funtastic World

1939 was when two cartoon directors named Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera conceived a cartoon called "Puss Gets the Boot" and the stars of that film - a cat named Tom and a mouse named Jerry - began their rise to animation stardom. In the years that followed, Hanna and Barbera made dozens and dozens of cartoons starring the cat and mouse and, along the way, picked up Academy Awards galore. Back then, television was only some new-fangled invention that had yet to really catch on. The cartoons Hanna and Barbera made for the MGM cartoon studio were shown in movie theatres, along with that studio's fine array of dramatic and musical films.

Eventually, TV proved not to be such a far-fetched invention. It caught on and, when it did, it threw the whole movie business into chaos. Folks were staying home and watching their own sets instead of going to theatres. The movie studios, in a panic, did a lot of slilly things. One of them was to close their cartoon studios... which is exactly what MGM did... whereupon Hanna and Barbera decided to found

their own studio. And their studio would be more in keeping with the times: It would do cartoons especially for television.

Their first show hit the air on December 14, 1957 it was called RUFF AND REDDY and featured the adventurous exploits of two tried-and-true friends, Ruff the Cat and Reddy the Dog. The Funtastic World was beginning to experience a population explosion.

The next year, THE HUCKLEBERRY HOUND SHOW (which also featured a certain Smarter-thanaverage Bear) debuted, followed in 1959 OUICK

DRAW McGRAW. In 1960, the town of Bedrock first came to television when THE FLINTSTONES rolled onto TV. From there on, there was no stopping the FUNTASTIC WORLD.

What is THE FUNTASTIC WORLD? Well, it's a big world that stretches from the haunted houses frequented by SCOOBY-DOO, to the reaches of the universe where SPACE GHOST fights evil. It's a world full of laughs with MAGILLA GORILLA and chills with CLUE CLUB and excitement with DYNOMUTT. You can go beneath the ocean to SEALAB 2020 or into the skies with BIRDMAN YOU can zoom with the WACKY RACES or float around the world in PETER POTAMUS' blimp. The FUNTASTIC WORLD Includes such well-known places as Bedrock, Jellystone Park and the BANANA SPLITS clubhouse, It's a world where you're liable to meet CAPTAIN CAVEMAN, FRANKENSTEIN JR., MOBY DICK, AUTOCAT AND MOTOR MOUSE HONG KONG PHOOEY, PENELOPE PITSTOP TOP CAT, WALLY GATOR, THE HERCULOIDS. THE GLOBETROTTERS, THE CB BEARS, THE IMPOSSIBLES, JABBERJAW ... everyone from a GREAT GRAPE APE to an INCH HIGH PRIVATE EYE.

But, mostly, it's a world of IMAGINATION ... that most wonderful magic that lets us be anyone, anywhere, anytime, it's a world as large as the dreams of the folks who create it and the folks who come visit - be it on TV, in a movie theatre, in a comic book or wherever.

In the months to come, in HANNA-BARBERA TV STARS, you'll meet many inhabitants of the Funtastic World . . . some you've met before and some new folks with new adventures to share.

Welcome aboard. Glad you could make it.

























BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, gang, let's try something newl Whenever the Fates inflict me on some defenseless college campus for a soulstirring lecture, the best part of the whole nutty affeir is usually the free-wheeling questions-and-enswers section which serves as a wrap-up for our cornucopia of cultural comic book lore. Well, if It's such a blast in the hallowed halls of academia, why shouldn't it work as well right here on our beloved Builpen Bulletins page? Why should you have to pay a fortune going to some expensive university just for the privilege of stumping me with some zinger? Okav then, here's the bit. If there's any burning query you've been itching to toss at me, jot it down - in no more than 25 words — (after all, I've gotta read the stuff!) and send it to "Stan Lee's Soapbox, Marvel Comics, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022". The more offbeat, philosophical, and unexpected your question is, the better. But remember, we've not about fifteen million readers each month, and I'll only be able to answer one or two questions per issue, so don't floure we've got a personal vendetta against you if we don't print yours! Anyway, whether your own personal poser is used or not, you'll still qualify for a late-model No-Prize (with front wheel disc brakes!) when you send in your interrogatory masterpiecel (And you thought Santa Claus only did his thing at Xmas time!) Actually, the devious purpose of this sinister scheme is to help the post office sell a few more stamps to aid the national economy - so it's your patriotic duty to participate, right? incidentally, all entries have to be postmarked before June 15th L No special reason - it just makes it sound more official! And, it oughtta give us enough topics to last till the Silver Surfer loses his curling Iron. So, till next ish, this is your obfuscetory ol' pen pal saying-

Excelsion

Man

ITEM! When DAVE (The Dude) KRAFT waltzed Into the Bullpen the other day, smiling contentedly, we all knew that the long-awaited day had come-the latest, and possibly the greatest Marvel Super Special ever assembled at last was finished! Someone summoned JIM (Trouble) SHOOTER while . Memorable MARTHA CONWAY notified STAN THE MAN and hald all calls during the presentation. The verdict? Well, it's always a pleasure to ennounce the completion of a major project-but it's especially gratifying when the project has turned out to be a showpiece-a package so good that it seems to have a special magic that transcends the sum of its creative components. Such is THE BEATLES STORY, by DAVE KRAFT, GEORGE PEREZ, KLAUS

JANSON, TOM PALMER, TOM ORZE-CHOWSKI and a cast of thousands, all of whom have truly outdons themselves in this magnificent tribute to the most important rock band in the history of music. It's on sale in May. Whatever you do, don't miss this one!

ITEM! Also coming your way in the month of May is what may be the most requested return engagement of all time, STAR-LORD once again rockets into high adventure and mind-boggling science-fiction thrills in the pages of MARVEL PREVIEW #14. The story was conceived and written by Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT, a Mervel regular who seems to be rapidly approaching legendary stature, due in no small meesure to his last Ster-Lord epic, Charmin', CARMINE INFAN-TINO provided the powerful pencils which Bombestle BOB WIACEK boldly embellished and the results are guaranteed to leave you breathless. The way it all comes together brings to mind that word showpiece again. But of coursa, we knew you'd want it to be that good.

ITEMI Yes, there's more! MARVEL TREASURY EDITION #17 featuring none other than THE INCREDIBLE HULK will find Its way to your newsstand soon. It is definitely not an item to be missed—you know how angry Ol' Greenskin gets when he's ignored.

ITEM! The baffled Bullpen had just begun to sort out ell the new names and faces already present when suddenly another wave of craativa folk arrived on the scenal Welcome anyway, to Benevolent BOB LUBBERS (rhymes with "Goobers"), who gained fame a while back as an illustrator for the Tarzan newspaper strip as wall as the memorable Long Sam strlp with which he is most closely Identified. Also being cheerfully piped aboard are Deliberate DAVID MICHELINIE (rhymes with "pickle-my-knee"...sort of), who is universally regarded as one of the finest writers in the business; and Baby-facad BOB LAYTON (rhymes with "antidisestablishmentarianism"), who is rapidly gaining a similar reputation as an inker. We could clue you in to what these titanically talented gentlemen are working on-but that would end all the suspense! Just keep watching the bylines on Mighty Marval's monthly offarings

ITEM It seems that somewhere in between creating masterworks for TOMB OF DRACULA and guiding the destinies of a host of Marvel's top charactars, Marvalous MARV WOLFMAN has found time to script a novel. Working in close cooperation with his good friend and associate Len Wain, Mary produced the first (and sure to be classic) novel featuring none other than The Amazing Spider-Man for the publishers of POCKET BOOKS. It should be on sale virtually everywhere soon, so if you see it, be sure to pick it up. And if you don't see it—sek!



ITEM! Actually, an unabashed plug — two great books you shouldn't pass up are THE HUMAN FLY and THE INVADERS. Believe

ITEMI Shame on us! List time out we admonished the ona dr two holdours who haven't yet subscribed to FOOM, Marvel's own behind-the-seenes magazine, but we forgot to mention just how one goes about signing up! Send a check or money order for \$3.00 for a Foomtastic four-issue subscription. Or better still, send \$4.00 for a riotous full Friends Of O'l Marvel membership kir, including official I.D. card, stick-ons, and a special bonus full-color poster, to FOOM, Subscription Dapart mant B, c/o Marvel Comies Group, 575 Medison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. And now back to the real world.

